IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

On page 5, please replace paragraph [1018] with the following amended paragraph:

[1018] Returning to FIG. 1, system 10 may employ rake receivers, such as receiver 200 of FIG. 8, in base stations 12, 14, or mobile station 16. FIG. 2 illustrates a receiver portion of base station 12 having a rake receiver according to one embodiment. Antenna array 20 receives signals on the Reverse Link, ~~RL,~~ and transmits signals on the Forward Link~~, FL~~. The antenna array 20 includes multiple fingers for receiving multiple signals simultaneously. The antenna array 20 receives multipath signals generated by mobile stations 16 within system 10. The antenna array 20 is coupled to the transceiver circuitry 28 via a rake receiver 22 and a communication bus 21. The rake receiver 22 may be similar to the rake receiver 200 of FIG. 8, or may have an alternate configuration. The rake receiver 22 is operative to process multipaths in a spread spectrum wireless communication system. The rake receiver 22 allows base station 12 to take advantage of the multipaths of transmitted signals of a given channel. The rake receiver 22 demodulates and uses the signal energy of all paths. The rake receiver 22 processes the received signals and provides the information to a communication bus 21.

On page 12, please replace paragraph [1033] with the following amended paragraph:

[1033] When a finger is out of lock, time is provided to make filter adjustment to allow recovery. When recovery is not achieved, the fingers may be reassigned to alternate paths. FIG. 6 illustrates a method 50, according to one embodiment, for tracking signals in system 10 of FIG. 1. From the start, the timer periods T1, T2 are initialized. The process then begins by tracking received signals on multiple fingers of antenna array 20 at step 52. A check is made at decision diamond 54 to determine if any of the fingers are out of lock. If at least one of the fingers is out of lock, processing continues to decision diamond 56, else processing returns to step 52 to continue tracking signals. At decision diamond 56, if the time period T1 has expired, the received signal is compared to an adjusted threshold E'_{LOCK} at decision diamond 58. If the time

period T1 has not expired, the processing continues to decision diamond 64 to compare the filtered signal to a threshold E_{LOCK}. In this way, the path assignment of the finger is maintained at least until expiration of time period T1.

On page 13, please replace paragraph [1034] with the following amended paragraph:

[1034] When any finger is determined to be out of lock at decision diamond 54, the finger path assignment is first maintained for a predetermined time period, T1 at decision diamond 56. As discussed hereinabove, the time period T1 is a wait period to allow for temporary outages from which the system will autonomously recover. The time period T1 may be a predetermined time period, or may be dynamically adjusted during operation. Additionally, the time period T1 may be based on historical and/or statistical information relating to operation of system 10. If the finger is still out of lock after expiration of the time period T1, processing continues to decision diamond 58. The energy of the received signal is compared to an adjusted energy level E'_{LOCK} at decision diamond 58. The comparison provides information for filtering adjustment, such as for lock filter 30 of FIG. 3. For sufficient energy, *i.e.* greater than E'_{LOCK}, the output of lock filter 30 is set equal to the input to lock filter 30 at step 60. For insufficient energy, *i.e.*, less than or equal to E'_{LOCK}, energy is added to the lock filter 30 {step 62}. The adjustment of the energy level for the lock filter 30 results in an adjusted output for comparison with the energy threshold E_{LOCK} in comparator 32 of FIG. 3. After completion of the filtering adjustment, the process compares the filtered signal to the threshold E_{LOCK} at decision diamond 64. At this point, if there is sufficient energy to lock onto the signal, received signal processing continues at step 68. However, if there is still insufficient energy a second time period T2 is provided, wherein if the time period T2 has expired at decision diamond 65 the fingers are reassigned at step 66. Until the time period T2 expires, processing returns to decision diamond 64 where the energy is compared to E_{LOCK}.

On page 14, please replace paragraph [1035] with the following amended paragraph:

[1035] There are scenarios during operation when the base station 12 may desire to ignore the lock state of the fingers and provide power control irrespective of the quality of the received signals. FIG. 7 illustrates one embodiment of a method of 100 tracking signals in a

wireless communication system. The process starts when signals are received at multiple fingers at step 102. A check is made to determine if the mobile station is in soft hand-off at decision diamond 104. Soft hand-off refers to the state of the mobile station wherein a mobile station communication is made to at least two base stations. As the mobile station moves from one coverage area to another, each base station communicates with the mobile station. The mobile station may then terminate a transmission with one base station in preference to another base station wherein the latter communication has a higher quality. If the mobile station is in soft hand-off, the base station ignores the lock state at step 108 and makes power control adjustments as a function of the energy of the received signal at step 110. If the mobile station is not in soft hand-off, the base station sends a predetermined pattern to the mobile station at step 106 for Power Control (PC), wherein the pattern instructs the mobile station to gradually adjust the power of the transmitted signal.